REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 and 9-20.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

With regard to Official Action paragraphs 1-3, the specification has been amended to correct minor errors.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 8-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the feature of claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1 and the remaining claims have been made dependent thereon.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Satoshi MAEMORI et al.

By:

Matthew Jacob

Registration No. 25,154 Attorney for Applicants

MJ/da Washington, D.C. 20006-1021 Telephone (202) 721-8200 Facsimile (202) 721-8250 October 6, 2003